



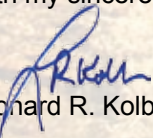
My very dear brothers and sisters,

This summer has been filled with wonderful events! Aside from the many congregational fellowships and picnics, our National Youth Convention took place at Purdue University with over 1700 participants. Our theme was "iServe Christ" and our youth took up this theme by accomplishing a number of service projects in the local Lafayette community. A special highlight was the Apostle Romani and a small group of youth from Columbia who were able to join us for the weekend.

The summer ended on a spiritual high with the visit of our Chief Apostle Leber in Detroit, accompanied by the apostles of the Canada and Cape (South Africa) districts. Over the weekend, our Chief Apostle was able to address the national assembly of our rectors. This conference resulted in a new burst of energy in the fellowship of the servants from different parts of the country. May the theme of the divine service - "Return to humbleness, faith, trust, fellowship and the first love" - remain as a watchword in our faith lives as we complete this year.

I want to use this opportunity to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and prayers. The many messages of love sent for my birthday lifted my heart and brought me much joy. I further want to express a deep thankfulness for all of the efforts that have been put forth in the congregations over the past year in thousands of different ways. This especially includes the many hard workers for the Youth Convention and our Chief Apostle's visit in Detroit. My wish for you is that the joy of a job well done, which is rooted in God's blessing, remains in each one's heart.

With my sincerest thanks and love,



Leonard R. Kolb

Thoughts on Thanksgiving

Within the NAC-USA district, our spiritual heritage contains a deep tradition of expressing our profound gratitude to our Heavenly Father. This tradition is the product of a wonderful teaching over many decades. It has formed a vibrant foundation of faith and a beautiful culture of joyful giving. It is my hope that we will continue this tradition while broadening and deepening our understanding of the scope of God's grace and His providence - to fully grasp the effect it has upon our daily lives as well as our eternal future.

We also must perceive and embrace the future vision of our church: The place whereby God will continue to provide both eternal redemption and relevant, day-by-day pastoral care for us, our children and our grandchildren. Our enlightened commitment to this vision will create a wonderful future legacy.

So let us begin, once again in the spirit of self-responsibility, by examining more closely our personal feelings. Can we see that our thanksgiving, and thus our giving, is a product of a mature understanding at many levels? The first layer of understanding is the most obvious. It is our recognition of God's daily kindness: His protection, His providence that supplies our daily bread, His deliverance in times of trouble and His wise direction of our path through life. This layer also contains the rich fabric of our family relationships, our fellowship with our brothers and sisters, and the

A perspective on offering in a contemporary world

When considering the subject of offering, it is important to remember that some of our past teaching created a strong connection to the physical offering box within our church building. Our faithful mothers and fathers taught us the value of this at a very young age. District Apostle Kraus advised us to never pass the offering box without contributing. When coupled with sincere thanks and a worshipful attitude, this advice served us well and created a beautiful legacy. I do not want to disturb this teaching.

However, we may broaden our understanding of offering given certain developments that have taken place within our contemporary times. For instance, it is now customary for some individuals to make all payments and purchases electronically. This is especially true of our younger members. Offering may also be transacted this way and soon we will be following the lead of some NAC districts in Europe and South Africa in making this an option for our members.

The more traditional of our members may feel that this is not in line with our past teaching. It may seem too cold and transactional - too distanced from the divine service experience where we view placing our offering into the offering box as part of the experience. I understand your concern. You may continue in your current practice undisturbed. But I also feel that our God is omniscient. He knows and sees everything. He will understand the e-offering process also and will recognize the same worshipful heart's attitude of the giver. Further, I believe the offering prayer and blessing covers these offerings even though they are not physically in the church building.

Please read the following description of our

new e-offering procedure and feel comfortable either using this procedure or opting to offer in the traditional manner. It is your choice.

New E-Offering Option Available

Beginning in the 2nd half of October, a new e-offering option will be available to all members and guests of the New Apostolic Church USA. For years, we have received an increasing number of requests about such an option and we are excited to be able to announce this new service to you.

The new e-offering service will be available via the Church's website at www.nac-usa.org. A link will take you to a secure site of a partner selected specifically for this purpose. E-offering can be made a number of ways and can be done as a one-time offering or repetitive on a regular basis.

While making an e-offering you have the opportunity to specify the congregation to which you would like your offering to be credited to. This will ensure that your congregation will continue to show your offering, regardless of how it was submitted. For those members who in the past already have asked for and received a unique, individual Donor Identification number (Donor ID or DID), we encourage and recommend for them to use their DID when making an e-offering. By doing so, their e-offering will be automatically credited to their home congregation unless specified differently by them during the e-offering process.

The new e-offering service provides the following practical advantages to the donor:

Your offering is submitted immediately without the possibility of a check being misplaced or lost in the mail.

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Chief Apostle Visit to the USA

The long awaited and much anticipated visit of our Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber took place September 5th in Detroit Michigan. The service was conducted in the Rock Financial Convention Center and was broadcast to many congregations in the USA and Canada. In a festive and uplifting sermon, the Chief Apostle exhorted all those in attendance to return to God, and He will return to us. In so doing, we must return to: humility, to a strong faith that can be proven in adversity, to following and to trust and confidence. He opened the divine service with the Bible verse Zechariah 1:3.

In addition to the sermon, the Chief Apostle retired the Bishop Clifford Freund from his ministry as bishop, and ordained the District Elder Manfredo Stegmann as bishop for Mexico. Lastly, he announced that the District Apostle Helper Mark Woll will be ordained as District Apostle for the Canada District in November 2010 and succeed the District Apostle Latorcai upon his retirement.

Our Chief Apostle also invited to this service the 11 apostles of the Cape District of South Africa. They enhanced the joy of the experience by participating in the national rector conference that preceded the Chief Apostle's divine service as well. Additionally, they conducted services and meetings around the USA in the following week, creating unforgettable moments of fellowship and sharing.

We thank our gracious God and the Chief Apostle for arranging this remarkable and unique event. ■



*Therefore say to them,
'Thus says the Lord of hosts:
Return to Me, and I will
return to you.'*

Zechariah 1:3

National Rector Conference

From September 2nd-4th, all ministers across the nation from rectors to apostles, gathered in Detroit, Michigan for a conference. This was a unique experience which provided our ministers with new resources and inspiration to support their ministries.

In addition to the joy of fellowship, the participants experienced the following highlights:

- On Saturday, September 4th, the Chief Apostle Leber addressed the conference, conducted a question and answer period and participated in a workshop with more than 350 participants.
- The District Apostle Kolb addressed the conference and described our forward vision revolving around healthy congregations and our three main objectives of: (1) enhancing the quality of our divine services; (2) learning to lead like Christ; and (3) improving the quality of pastoral care. In addition, he addressed the need for healthy ministers and therefore methods to help them live a balanced life.
- The introduction of a nationwide minister training and education curriculum called the Minister Development Institute. This curriculum will provide a consistent level of training and education to all USA ministers on subjects that will help them accomplish the three objectives above.
- A training session on implementing “The Work of Ministry” initiative in each congregation. This initiative is designed to help a rector more effectively assist members in finding and developing their God-given spiritual gifts and talents and then integrating them into congregational leadership for the benefit of all members.
- A training video illustrating the new divine service liturgy, from beginning to end, was used by the District Apostle to conduct a training session.
- A Rector Synod was convened to vote on changes to the NAC-USA constitution. The changes bring our existing constitution in line with those used by many of the NAC districts internationally. It will provide more transparency, a more active role for the Board of Trustees and the Synod as well as greater checks and balances on the role of the District Apostle in matters of church administration. The changes were adopted by the Synod by an overwhelming majority.
- A description of our new e-offering platform.
- Rector-only breakout sessions where rectors of like sized congregations could discuss common problems, issues and solutions.
- A continuous technology training and help desk to assist our rectors with the Minister Companion Website. ■



Thoughts on Thanksgiving

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comforting care of those who minister to our daily needs within our congregations.

But there is another level of understanding. Therein we try to grasp the enormity of God's grace within the gift of His beloved Son Jesus Christ for our redemption and eternal life. This concept is too big to be considered only randomly, sandwiched between the busyness of daily life. At key moments we choose to intentionally create a quiet space to contemplate and worship the One who has woven us into His family, redeemed us from sin and death and given us the promise of life eternal. From this perspective, it becomes a privilege to offer the best that we have willingly and joyfully, never begrudgingly. Offering becomes purely an expression of adoration; it cannot be compared to God's gift of salvation to us, and it can never compensate Him for His loving kindness. Likewise, our offerings are not given with the hopes of some immediate reward but rather the understanding that God knows our needs. We trust Him and are thankful for His care and direction in both good and difficult days.

In a recent divine service the Chief Apostle described this simply and profoundly: "If we truly love the Lord, we will not have the heart to disappoint Him. We will want to have fellowship with Him, to be close to Him. And we will bring our offerings, not out of obligation or duty but because our heart urges us to do so. This is the law of love."

How will we adequately express our adoration to our Heavenly Father? Here again are differing levels of understanding. In Nehemiah 10:32 we read the words "to exact from ourselves." This means we give up something, we do without, and we sacrifice in order to offer. As parents, we do this already for our children. In 2 Corinthians 8:3 we read of the Macedonian

congregations who gave freely and joyfully during times of great affliction and poverty. This can be both comforting and illuminating to us today during a time of economic struggle.

There is another level of understanding within the teaching of the prophet Nehemiah regarding the necessity to care for God's house. He gives the admonition "we will not neglect the house of our God" and within the 39th chapter, reminds God's people of their promises of support to the temple and all the activities found therein.

How critical this is today! Many of our churches need "refreshment." But also within the "house of God" are found the pastoral care programs for our children, youth, music, and seniors. Here are our Vacation Bible schools, our weddings, our funerals, our Peace Making seminars and our minister training programs. Here will we find the pastoral programs of the future: pre-marriage classes for couples, parenting resources for young families and grief management for those who suffer loss, to name a few. I intentionally cast this vision out to all once again, in the hopes that you will perceive and believe in the potential for our future when our vision for healthier congregations becomes realized. In addition to our investment of time and effort, the realization of this vision will require financial support.

In conclusion dear brothers and sisters, I wish for you a most wondrous and joyous feast of Thanksgiving Sunday as well as a warm and loving celebration of our national Thanksgiving holiday surrounded by family and friends. This is a beautiful door by which we enter the Advent season. ■

Offering in a contemporary world

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The processing of your offering receipts, in particular for Thanksgiving, will on average start one week earlier than if the offering is put into the offering box.

There is no need for paper checks anymore; members have told us in many of their inquiries that their offering check is the last paper check they are writing.

Upon completion of your offering you will receive a temporary receipt from our administrative partner. This receipt is fully acceptable for tax purposes, in particular for offerings under \$250. For offerings over \$250 you will continue to receive a formal receipt from the church as in the past.

Should you have any further questions about this new service please feel free to contact the team in the Chicago office at www.offering@nac-usa.org. This new service will be available as of the middle of October so please check the church's website regularly if you are interested in using it.

Let me conclude by addressing another broadened perspective of offering. Recently, we rolled out a new initiative called the Minister Development Institute. This is a formalized training and education program for all our ordained ministers to help them improve the quality of our divine service experience, congregational leadership and pastoral care. A portion of the future cost of this program will be funded by an endowment created by a bequest from one of our members. The funds are to be used specifically for this purpose according to the member's wishes.

While it is true that these types of gifts provide certain unique tax, retirement and estate planning opportunities for the donor, just think of the legacy that has been created for our future! How many lives will be impacted with eternal consequences by this bequest? The gift flowed from the passion of this member to find and support a specific program that would edify the Body of Christ. Perhaps you have such a passion as well: Is it our children? Is it our youth? Is it our music? Is it your congregational building? The list could be as extensive as the many gifts of ministry found within the family of God. ■

Upcoming Events:

The **Service for the Departed** will be celebrated on Sunday, November 7th. Our Chief Apostle will conduct this service in Berlin. Our District Apostle will be in Denver, Colorado and be joined by the Apostle Will Hoffmann.

As a reminder, our **New Apostolic Thanksgiving Sunday** will be celebrated in all USA congregations on Sunday, November 21st. There will be no services scheduled during the midweek or on the National Thanksgiving holiday (Thursday, November 25th).

A **new divine service liturgy** will be introduced on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th. The most pronounced changes will be evident during Holy Communion. Please be patient with our ministers as they also become accustomed to this new procedure. When fully implemented, it will enhance the divine service experience for all.

The Christmas and New Year divine service schedule will be as follows:

Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec 25th

Divine service at 10:30 AM

Sunday, Dec 26th

No Divine Service

Wednesday, Dec 29th

No Divine Service

Friday, Dec 31st

Closing of the Year service at 7:00 PM

New Year's Day, Saturday, Jan 1, 2011

No Divine Service

Sunday, Jan 2, 2011

Regular Divine Service

NEW CD from the Los Angeles Concert Choir and Ensembles:

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